



News for Immediate Release  
May 30, 2006

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Department of Water Resources Celebrates  
50th Anniversary At State Capitol

Sacramento - As the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) undertakes an historic effort to upgrade and strengthen California's aging flood control system, the Department's accomplishments of the past 50 years will be displayed and celebrated with the public on the State Capitol west steps and lawn, Wednesday, May 31.

DWR's 50th Anniversary Capitol Celebration begins at 11 a.m. with Director Lester Snow, along with other water policy leaders, marking the 1956 birth of DWR under the vision of then Assemblyman Caspar W. Weinberger and California Governor Goodwin J. Knight.

The event features displays detailing the history and construction of the State Water Project (SWP), acclaimed as one of the great engineering achievements of the 21st Century. The system of canals and pipelines stretches more than 700 miles, providing water to more than 23 million Californians and over 750,000 acres of farmland. The SWP also provides flood protection, environmental flows and recreational venues for Californians.

Among displays on the Capitol lawn:

“Past, Present & Future: The State Water Project” by DWR graphic artist, Xiaojun Li. Li, an internationally known children's book illustrator, has won numerous awards for his work in China, Japan and the United States. Li will travel to Tokyo this summer to accept a United Nations award for his children's book illustrations. Mr. Li is available for interviews throughout the day.

Several Interactive children's venues, teaching the history of the State Water Project, water safety, and publicizing recreational opportunities along the SWP. A popular feature with children is the “Fish Simulator,” a videotape monitor hooked up to a fishing rod with tension. The simulator gives a child the experience of catching and landing a large fish.

Joining Director Snow in making brief speeches about DWR's achievements and activities in

California water policy developments will be former DWR Directors: Linda Adams (2003-2004), David N. Kennedy (1983-1998) and Justice Ronald Robie (1975-1982).

Assemblywoman Lois Wolk (D-Davis) will speak.

Speeches are scheduled to begin at noon and conclude about 12:30 p.m. Displays and music will continue until 2 p.m.

Reporters seeking background on DWR may access a special online 50th anniversary edition of DWR NEWS/People magazine. The URL address is

<http://www.publicaffairs.water.ca.gov/dwrnewsletter/news-people/News-People-50th.pdf>.

Or, go to the Department's Home page at [www.water.ca.gov](http://www.water.ca.gov) and click on "Publications" under "Quick Hits."

To make arrangements for interviews throughout the day and during the event, contact Elizabeth Scott, DWR Public Affairs, at (916) 835-5344.

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The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

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